

Judge Horatio Gates Onderdonk House
Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.
NASSAU Co.

HABS No. NY-537

HABS
N.Y.,
30-MANHA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. NY-5

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Lester B. Pope, District Officer
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

HABS
N.Y.
30-MANHA,

Judge Horatio Gates Onderdonk House
Manhasset, Nassau County, New York

Owner or Custodian

Levitt & Sons

Date of Erection

1836

Architect

Unknown

Builder

Unknown

Present Condition

The house is in good condition.

No. of Stories

Two stories and attic

Materials of Construction

Brick foundation, clapboard exterior, Greek columns and sheet metal roof. Due to the interior having been completely altered and redecorated by the present owners and occupants, Levitt & Sons, Builders, it is not worthy of record.

Other Existing Records

An early photograph of the front elevation of the house is in the possession of the Great Neck Public Library.

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Additional Data
(Family History)

Horatio Gates Onderdonk, son of Joseph Onderdonk and Dorothy Montfort, was born at Cow Neck, which is now Manhasset, on August 14, 1808, in the old house (built by his ancestor Adrianse Onderdonk in 1700) situated forty rods west of the Flower Hill Cemetery. In 1900 the house was torn down to make way for the expansion of the cemetery.

Adrianse Onderdonk, a Dutch Settler in New Castle, Delaware in 1660, brought his family to Flatbush in 1675 where he had purchased a vast amount of acreage. In approximately 1689 the Onderdonk family settled in Manhasset and in 1700 built the homestead mentioned above.

Horatio Gates Onderdonk, a graduate of Columbia University, studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1832. His main office was in Manhasset and his city office at 121 Nassau Street, New York City.

In 1830 he married Elizabeth Schenck Onderdonk, a distant cousin, the result of this union being six children, Annie B., Sarah, Maria, Josephine, Catherine E. and Andrew J. In 1836 Horatio Gates Onderdonk built the house which we call the Judge Horatio Gates Onderdonk house. Up to the time of the

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Additional Data
(Cont'd)

erection of this house he had been living in the home of his birth.

For fifty years Horatio Gates Onderdonk was engaged continuously in the practice of law. Besides being Master of Chancery, he was appointed by Governor Marcy, County Judge of Kings County. In politics he was an old line Democrat; in religion, Reformed Dutch.

On April 6, 1886 he died leaving a vast fortune.

After his death the house was inherited by his son, Andrew J. Onderdonk and was thereafter known as the residence of Andrew J.

In 1887 Sarah Onderdonk, daughter of Horatio Gates Onderdonk, married Durand Linkletter son of John Linkletter and Sarah Onderdonk of the third generation. Through inter-marriage between the Linkletter and Onderdonk Families, the house and acreage of Horatio G. Onderdonk was purchased from Andrew J. by George Linkletter, nephew of Horatio G. in approximately 1912 and was sold by George Linkletter to Levitt & Sons, Developers and Builders, who are the present owners, in 1932.

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Erection of House

The Greek classical design found in this house which was built in 1836, was not common for the period in this section. Referring to various sources of information there were only a few of these homes scattered within a wide radius.

The Greek architectural design is well done throughout and some of the major details should be given some consideration at this point.

The mass of this building or main portion consists of a central building two stories high flanked on either side with one story wings. The roof of each wing being metal covered and low hipped. It may be noted by referring to one of the early photographs found in the genealogy of the Onderdonk family that the wings were part of the original design.

The central portion forms a stately portico on the south side consisting of four massive fluted Greek Doric columns supporting a dentilated cornice and pediment which shelters pedimented windows and main entrance doorway. The sash are modern, changed presumably, by the present owners. The mouldings of the columns and pilaster caps are undercut. The roof of the rear porch on the north side is also supported by four fluted Greek Doric columns sheltering a rear

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Erection of House
(Cont'd)

entrance doorway of pleasing design.

Present Condition

The house is in good condition and the exterior well preserved in its original state by the present owners. The interior of the house is not worthy of going into detail mainly because of the drastic changes that have been made leaving little or no evidence of its former construction.

Sources Consulted

The Genealogy of the Onderdonk Family - published by
Andrew J. Onderdonk - Great Neck Public Library

Benjamin Thompson's History of Long Island

Information from:

George Linkletter, nephew of the late H. G. Onderdonk
Mrs. J. C. Baker, Great Neck Historian

Signed

Frank E. Hurley, Jr.
Asst. Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey

Approved

Lester B. Pope
Lester B. Pope, District Officer
Historic American Buildings Survey
Brooklyn-Long Island Districts

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